

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY:JKB

APPROVED BY S - THE SECRETARY

EUR - AAHARTMAN

C - HSONNENFELDT

S/S - RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223829

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FOR THE CHARGE FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI CONCERNS ABOUT USG

REF: ROME 14343

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN REGARD TO STORIES IN THE ITALIAN PRESS WHICH IMPLY BY INNUENDO THAT THE USG MAY BE DISSATISFIED WITH ANDREOTTI AND MAY BE ATTEMPTING INDIRECTLY TO DISCREDIT HIM:

-- THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER TO RECENT INSINUATIONS IN THE PRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS INVOLVED IN THE PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS LINKING THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL. THESE INSINUATIONS SEEM TO SERVE MORE THE PURPOSES OF THOSE PUBLISHING THEM THAN ANYONE ELSE.

-- OTHER ALLEGATIONS IN THE PRESS IMPLYING THAT THE UNITED
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STATES GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO ANDREOTTI AS PRIME

MINISTER -- NOW OR IN THE PAST -- ARE EQUALLY UNFOUNDED.

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE PRIME MINISTER
AND HIS GOVERNMENT AND WISHES THEM EVERY SUCCESS IN
CARRYING OUT THEIR ANNOUNCED PROGRAM WHILE INSURING THAT

UNDEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES WILL NOT ENTER THE
GOVERNMENT.

2. AS FOR A POSSIBLE PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE EMBASSY OR
THE DEPARTMENT, I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANYTHING TO BE
GAINED BY INITIATING A DEBATE WITH THE ITALIAN PRESS OR
TRYING TO REBUT ONE BY ONE THE VARIOUS RIDICULOUS AND
PURPOSEFUL CHARGES THEY MAKE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL, HOW-
EVER, RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS ALONG THE ABOVE
LINES IF ASKED.

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ARE
CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO GIVE SOME EARLY PUBLIC SIGN OF
OUR SUPPORT FOR THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT, POSSIBLY IN
CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI TO
THE UNITED NATIONS LATER THIS MONTH.

4. ALSO FYI, TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY YEO WILL ISSUE
GENERAL INVITATION TO STAMMATI TO VISIT THE US, THOUGH
DATE WILL BE LEFT OPEN AND WOULD IN ANY CASE COME ONLY
AFTER FORLANI HAS BEEN HERE. KISSINGER

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